

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel claims 4, 16 and 17, without prejudice.

Kindly amend claims 1, 6, 7 and 15 as follows:

1. (Amended) A lock for temporarily fixedly securing first and second associated pole sections in a telescoped arrangement, said lock comprising:

a base defining an axially extending through-bore adapted for close sliding receipt of an end portion of a first associated pole section;

a neck projecting from said base;

a collar connected to said neck and radially constrictable relative to said base, said collar defining an opening aligned with said axially extending through-bore of said base, said collar adapted for close sliding receipt of a second associated pole section partially telescoped into said first associated pole section, wherein said collar is defined by first and second collar portions connected to said neck and terminating in respective first and second ears arranged in spaced-apart relation to each other, said ears defining respective first and second bores;

a fastener extending through said first and second bores between said first and second ears, said fastener including a head abutting said first ear, an unthreaded first portion frictionally engaged with a portion of said first ear that defines said first bore to inhibit unintentional rotation of said fastener and a threaded distal end extending through said second bore defined in said second ear and projecting outwardly from said second ear;

a lever having a head defining a threaded aperture that is threadably engaged with said threaded distal end of said fastener, said lever movable rotatably relative to said threaded distal end of said fastener between an unlocked position, wherein said collar

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slidably receives and accommodates a second associated pole section, and a locked position, wherein said head of said lever is advanced on said threaded distal end of said fastener toward said head of said fastener and urges said second ear toward said first ear to constrict said collar radially relative to said base into frictional gripping engagement with a second associated pole section received in the collar, wherein said first portion of said fastener defines an unthreaded cylindrical conformation that is located in said first bore defined by said first ear with a tight frictional fit sufficient to restrain said fastener against rotation upon movement of said lever between said unlocked and said locked positions.

Sub B2 > 6. (Amended) The lock as set forth in claim 4, wherein said threaded distal end of said fastener defines a double lead left-handed thread.

7. (Amended) A telescoping pole apparatus comprising:
a first pole section defining a first bore;
a second pole section slidably located in said first bore of said first pole section in a telescoping arrangement;
a lock connected to said first pole section and adapted to secure said second pole section axially relative to said first pole section, said lock comprising:

a base defining an axial through-bore, wherein an end portion of said first pole section is located in said axial through-bore;

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a collar connected to said base and selectively radially constrictable relative to said base, said collar defining an opening aligned with said axial through-bore, said second pole section projecting from said first bore of said first pole section and through said opening of said collar, said collar, when radially constricted relative to said base, firmly engaging and retaining said second pole section in an axially and rotatably

fixed position relative to said first pole section;

a fastener connected to and frictionally engaged with said collar so as to be restrained against unintended rotation relative to said collar, said fastener comprising a threaded end that projects outwardly from said collar; and

a control member that mates threadably with said threaded end of said fastener, said control member selectively manually rotatable relative to said fastener in first and second directions to constrict and expand said collar radially, respectively, said fastener restrained against rotation with said control member by frictional engagement between said fastener and said collar.

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sub B₂ > 15. (Amended) A lock apparatus for fixedly securing first and second telescoping pole sections relative to each other, said apparatus comprising:

a first portion adapted for connection to an end portion of a first associated pole section;

a second portion connected to said first portion and defining a collar that is selectively radially constrictable relative to said first portion and adapted for receipt of a second associated pole section partially telescoped into said first associated pole section, said collar, when radially constricted, firmly engaging and fixedly retaining a second associated pole section received thereby, said collar comprising first and second ears separated from each other by a space;

a screw extending through said first and second ears of said collar and including a headed end and an opposite threaded end, said screw comprising an unthreaded portion that is tightly frictionally engaged with only one of said first and second ears; and

a lever operably coupled to said threaded end of said screw and adapted for rotation in a first direction on said screw causing said lever to be advanced on said screw towards

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said headed end so that said collar is radially constricted, and adapted for rotation in a second direction opposite said first direction so that said lever moves away from said headed end of said screw and said collar resiliently radially expands, wherein said tight frictional engagement between said unthreaded portion of said screw and said one of said first and second ears restrains said screw against rotation with said lever when said lever is moved in said first and second directions.
